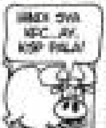
'Pinoy Big Brother' visits Batasan 5 'Housemates'



By Norman Bordadora

NO POLITICAL CAREER for "Pinoy Big Brother" winner Kaatsu Reeves, thank you.

Reeves, who emerged as No. 1 "housemate" in ABS-CBN's popular reality

PINOY/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, April 5, 2006 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 118 P18

Cruz proposes to extend generals' tour of duty

By Dona Pazzibugan and Philip C. Tubeza

DEFYING MILITARY TRADITION, DEFENSE SECretary Avelino Cruz Jr. proposed that military officers retire after 30 years in the service unless one was promoted to one-star rank (brigadier general or commodore), whereupon he would get a five-year extension.

CRUZ/A14

Thai PM Thaksin quits

Decision made abruptly out of respect for nation's King Bhumibol

BANGKOK — THAILAND's embattled Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra abruptly announced Tuesday he will step down from office, bowing to a mounting opposition campaign seeking his ouster over allegations of corruption and abuse of power.

Thaksin's announcement came shortly after he met with the country's revered monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, at the latter's seaside palace in southern Hua Hin.

"I am sorry that I will not accept the premier post," Thaksin said during a televised speech. "I apologize to my 16 million supporters that I cannot take the post of prime minister, but I will still carry on as a caretaker prime minister until my successor is chosen."

"My reason for not accepting the post of prime minister is because this year is an auspicious year for the King, whose 60th anniversary on the throne is just 60 days away," Thaksin said.

"I beg all Thais to sacrifice for the king," he added.

He said that he would remain as caretaker head of government until his replacement is elected once Parliament reopens within the next 30 days.

"We have no time to quarrel," he said. "I want to see Thai people unite and forget what has happened."

The announcement came as opposition forces were gearing up to resume their antigovernment protests and early election

THAI PM/A15

Senate media report says GMA is not the State

By Philip C. Tubeza

SHE IS NOT THE STATE AND SHE is not Louis XIV, the 17th century absolute monarch who ruled France for 72 years.

This was the thrust of Senate Committee Report No. 60 released yesterday which condemned what it said were moves by President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to "control and muzzle" media during the week-long state of emergency she declared in February.

The 34-page report said: "The President is not the State when it is mentioned in the Constitution. But Malacañang, in the manner of Louis XIV, equates the State as the President. Hence, the unbridled disregard of constitutional limitations on the Presidency."

The famous phrase "Létat, c'est moi (I am the state)" is often attributed to the French king.

The hard-hitting report denounced what is called "presidential arrogance."

Senators crossed party lines to sign the report authored by administration Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Senator Arroyo praised the media for standing their ground against attempts to muzzle them.

The signatories were Arroyo, Juan Flavier, Ralph Recto, Pia Cayetano, Francis Pangilinan,

SENATE/A11



FESTIVE MOOD. On the eve of her 59th birthday today, President Arroyo is in the mood to fiesta as she visits the town of Mapandan, Pangasinan, where 60 percent of the town voters signed up to change the Constitution. Behind her are DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane (2nd from right) and retired Gen. Jose Calimlim (3rd from right), SBMA senior deputy administrator for operations. Ms Arroyo is scheduled to observe her birthday in her hometown of Lubao, Pampanga.

GMA and Mike like yin and yang, says older sis

By Fe Zamora

SHE IS "COLD, ALOOF AND A brilliant planner," a perfect match to her husband, who is "warm, outgoing and a smooth operator," President Macapagal-Arroyo's half-sister, Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, says of the First Couple.

"Like yin and yang, they complement each other," Salgado said, referring to the two principles in Chinese philosophy—one negative, dark and feminine (yin), and the other positive, bright and masculine (yang). Their interaction is believed to influence the destinies of creatures and things.

The remarks were culled from interviews the Inquirer had with Salgado in January and again last week.

Salgado claimed the President would not be completely unaware of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's controversial activities, including his supposed involvement in alleged irregularities in the 2004 presidential election.

"Except perhaps for affairs of the heart, Jokit nang pagsasabi ni Mike siyan or Gloria. Everything Mike does is known to Gloria," Salgado said.

The Arroyos have been married since 1968. She turns 59 today. His birthday wish for her is "happiness and less politics." (See story on Page A4.)

Like the supposed "conjugal dictatorship" of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, Ms Arroyo and the First Gentleman complement each other as politicians, according to William "Billy" Esposo, a

GMA/A4



ONE MORE GOLD! For capturing the best photograph that best embodied "the indomitable spirit and strength" of the Filipino athletes, which was the theme of the photo contest of the 23rd SEA Games hosted by the country late last year, Inquirer staff photographer Lyn Rillon won first prize and P50,000 last Monday from First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who sponsored the contest. The winning photo was that of Filipino athlete Danica Caligagan doing a routine at the rhythmic gymnastic competition. Second prize went to Roy Martinez and third prize to Albert Garcia.

Madrigal scion, Jamby's pa, dies

By TJ Burgonio

DON ANTONIO MADRIGAL, THE father of Sen. Ma. Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal, died of natural causes at the family residence in New Manila, Quezon City, yesterday afternoon. He was 87.

His wife Amanda (daughter of the late Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos), daughters Jamby, Susana Madrigal-Ishapre and Tana Madrigal-Gello, and sister Chito Madrigal-Collantes and other relatives were at his bedside when he breathed his last at around 2:30 p.m.

The elder Madrigal was in the news last month after Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who was then debating with Senator Madrigal, mentioned him and his wife as having partied with the Marcoses in Malacañang during martial law.

Deeply hurt, Senator Madrigal denied what she called Enrile's insinuations that her father had benefited from the Marcos regime, wept and walked out of the session hall.

Later, in all interviews, still to

MADRIGAL/A6

Nature's 1st art gallery is God's own greenery

By Blanche S. Rivera

ON HER STROLLS, THE ARTIST LOOKS downward, her eyes always wandering.

It's not that she is shy. It's just that she is perpetually on the lookout for flowers, leaves, ferns, stalks—or other things natural that can give color to her next piece of art.

Maria Monica Penelope R. Velasco, a pressed-flower artist and writer who won the first Environmental Communication Award from the United Nations Environment Programme in 2003, has produced about 75 art works since she started on what was once a mere hobby.

But until recently, there was something she could not find no matter how far she traveled and how hard she looked: A place for unique art like hers.

The frustrating search for that special

NATURE'S/A15



NATURE'S BEST. New art gallery in Kamuning features art created from natural, native and recycled materials.

Now, Abalos does talking for Borra

By Jerome Aning, Norman Bordadora and TJ Burgonio

ELECTION COMMISSIONER Resurreccion Borra has stirred a hornet's nest in Congress with his statement that cheating had occurred during the May 2004 presidential election.

Since his unprecedented admission during a Senate inquiry on Monday that irregularities were committed during the balloting, which the opposition said President Macapagal-Arroyo stole, Borra has clammed up.

Instead, it was Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. who did all the talking yesterday for Borra.

Abalos said Borra had been "misinterpreted."

"I asked him and he told me 'No, chief, I did not say there was cheating in the last election,'" Abalos told reporters.

"What he meant was that there were historical instances in Lanao when even birds and insects could vote but these were done in previous elections and not in 2004. There was no massive fraud," he said.

Borra was at the Comelec yesterday to attend the commissioners' biweekly en banc session but declined all interviews after the meeting.

The Comelec's information di-

NOW/A15

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

Cha-cha is doomed – Pimentel

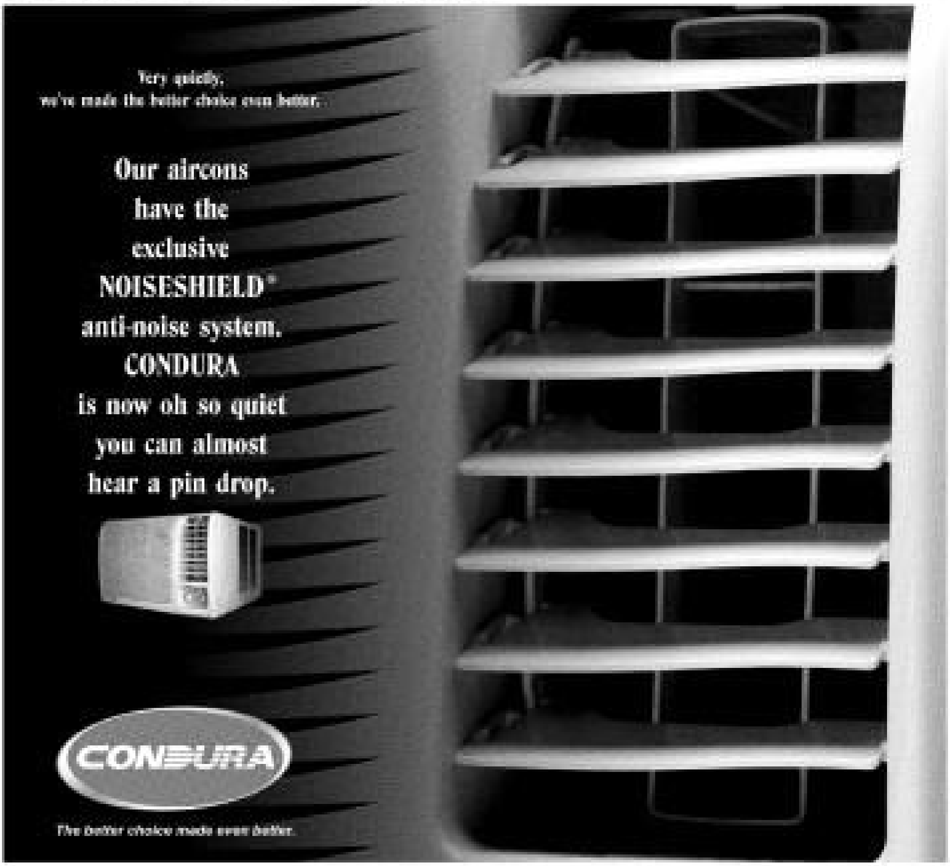
WITH NO LAW OR THE FUNDS TO SUSTAIN IT, THE people's initiative now being vigorously pursued by the Arroyo administration to amend the Constitution will not prosper, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

Cha-cha groups cry harassment

She is most unpopular, but GMA is undaunted

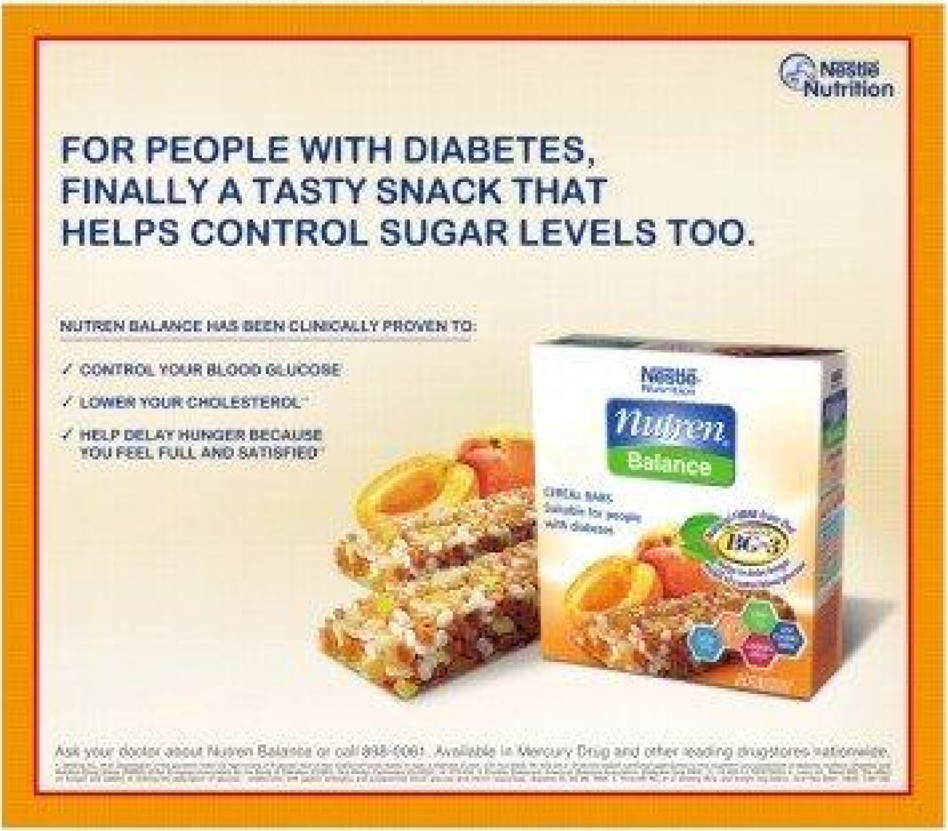
Unusual route

Facing the issue



RP population expected to double to 141.7M by 2040, says NSO

AFP



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Gloria turns 59 today, gets 2 birthday cakes

By Christine O. Avendaño

GMA and Mike like yin and yang, says older sis

No sideline role for Mike

Mike does talking

Deferred to husband

Fierce defender

Madrigal scion, Jamby's father, dies; 87

Leyte landing

Philippine Herald publisher

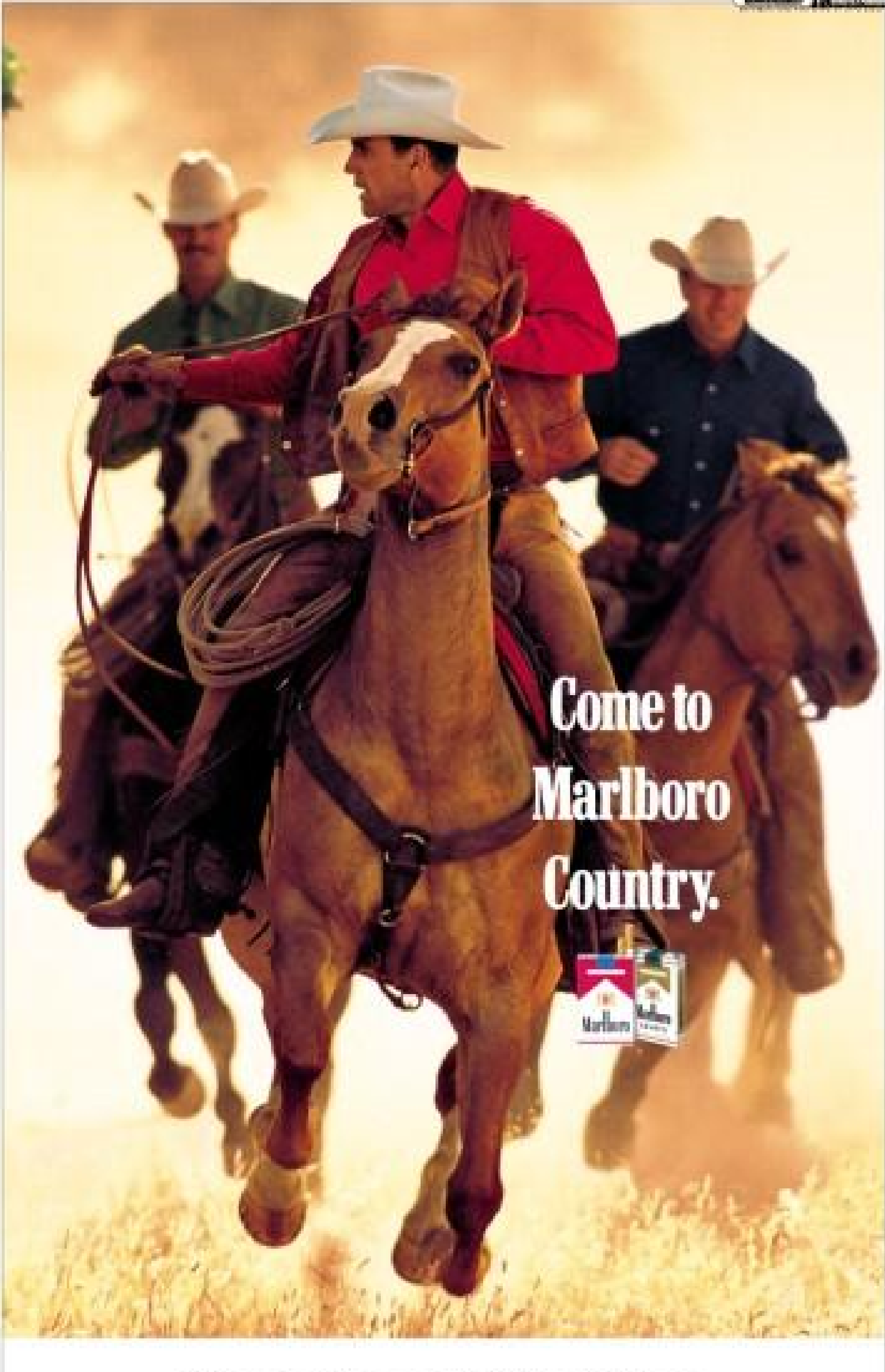
Last words



'Pinoy Big Brother' ...

'Escort girl'

No fear



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous
to your health

Solons file 2 new perjury charges vs Garcillano



Body of Pinoy in Bahrain sea tragedy brought home





Corrections



Happy Birthday Her Excellency
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Bridging A New Era In Nation Building
PRESIDENT'S BRIDGE PROGRAM
526 SZOPAD BRIDGES COMPLETED
9 MONTHS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE !!!
TULAY NG PANGULO SA SZOPAD - "BRIDGES OF HOPE"
100% Completion 9 Months Ahead of Target Date
Materials Savings for Over 50 More Bridges
No Cost-Overruns
The 526 steel bridges programmed and implemented in the Special Zone for Peace and Development (SZOPAD) have been fully completed nine months ahead of schedule and with steel bridge materials savings good for 50 more bridges.
This was the report to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr., Chairman of the President's Bridge Program (PBP), and PBP Executive Director Emil Sadain who joined the President on her trip to Palawan.
A U.K. government assisted bridge project under the President's Bridge Program, the SZOPAD steel bridges which cover the entire island of Mindanao including Palawan was started in December 2001 in response to the demand of provinces and cities neighboring the ARMM Region. Some 526 SZOPAD "Bridges of Hope" were programmed to provide the residents an increase in access to government services and upgrade their standard of living through better economic opportunities.
Secretary Ebdane, Jr. underscored that: "The PBP is one responsive program of the government that has been implemented with fidelity to time target and costing. Since it started, it has proceeded with no cost overruns incurred, accomplished ahead of schedule and with bridge materials savings good for 50 more bridges."
President Fidel V. Ramos started the PBP as a parallel intervention to fast track infrastructure, particularly in bridging development of newly opened areas for agricultural production. The program continued under President Estrada and speedily progressed under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's stewardship.
The prefabricated modular steel bridging for the PBP is supplied by Mabey & Johnson, the UK's sole manufacturer of modular steel panel bridge systems. It uses the most advanced state-of-the-art robotic processes to produce a permanent and maintenance-free bridge product to the highest quality standards.
The implementation of PBP is now under the able Chairmanship of DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr. who has accelerated the program with remarkable accomplishment.
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Antiterror bill OKd; no death penalty

DFA doubts Somalia hijacking report

Don't hike tuition, state schools told

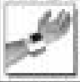
Painter's son dies

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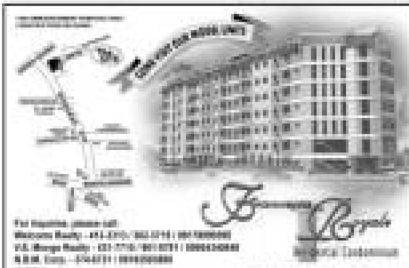


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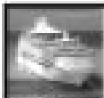


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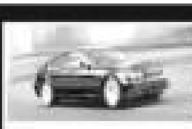
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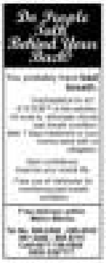


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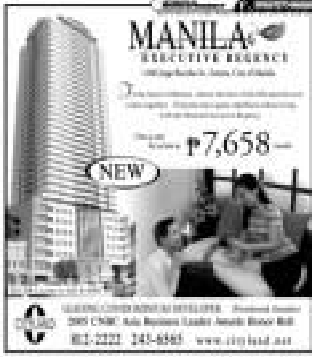

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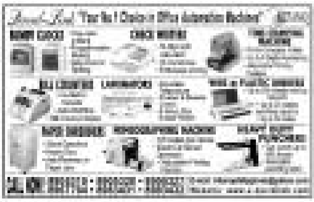

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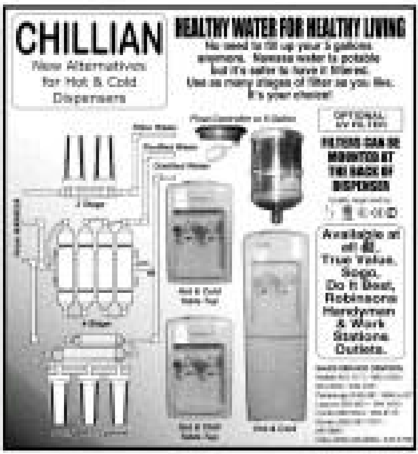

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TCL SU[illegible]

6 Years of Val[illegible]

My New Favourite



MESSAGE

We are happy to mark our 6th year in the Philippines as TCL gains increasing acceptance among Filipino households. It has not been an easy road for the brand but I must say that every step of collective hard work and perseverance was worth it!

TCL opens a new life for all who aspire to have the best of entertainment technology in their homes: state-of-the-art television sets meant to be consistently enjoyed by every member of the family. Our high technology Colored TV, LCD, Plasma, Slim and Flat TVs with interesting features and in stereo, are at par with today's international standards.

We are most especially grateful to our dealers for their invaluable support. Indeed, their concerted individual efforts have paved the way for TCL's phenomenal entry into the local market as a preferred brand to carry.

Suffice it to say that our brand's significant and meaningful success in the country continues to inspire TCL in bringing to you only the best possibilities that we can offer 6 years and beyond!

ALEX M. ESPIRITU
President
TCL SUN INC.



MESSAGE

It is an honor for me to be with TCL Sun Inc. and a great pleasure to be part of its dynamic team in the Philippines. What the brand has achieved thus far, symbolizes the triumph of the human spirit to aim for great possibilities by nurturing good values and inherent strengths within the company.

On its 6th year, TCL shares with Filipino households its passion for quality innovations that put its name among the world's best in home entertainment and lifestyle conveniences. I am glad to note that the brand has become one of the top players in the local TV industry and provides the much sought after "value for money" with its high quality and affordability.

I wish TCL more success in its future endeavors as we hope for the continued support of our dealers and the Filipino people.

Mabuhay!

XIAODONG WU
Executive Vice President
TCL SUN INC.



MESSAGE

On its 6th anniversary, nothing can be farther from the truth that TCL has indeed arrived here in the Philippines. After initially serving as company president until my new assignment in TCL Corporation Overseas SBU two years ago, I am pleased to see good signs of a brighter future for the brand.

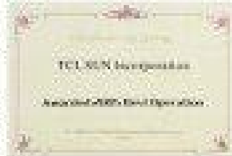
TCL has become the most successful producer and provider of electronic products with abundant potential as one of the leading names in the global TV market. Since TCL Overseas SBU is tasked to be the main force to explore these overseas markets, we are determined to pursue these dreams by working for their realization through high quality research and design technology.

As we commemorate 6 years of brand presence in the Philippines, we are working to bring more support locally through a diversified quality product line-up that will endear TCL closer to our customers through values, employment, opportunities and benefits for society.

Our special thanks for your wholehearted support!

EMMANUEL T. VALENCIA
Business Development Director
TCL Corporation Overseas SBU

Moving Forward



The world does not run out of success stories. TCL's emergence as the global brand that it is today is made even more formidable considering its early beginnings as a business enterprise of cassette production back in the mid 80's.

Looking back, TCL has always been marching forward and top management can only be grateful for all the opportunities that have come its way. Committed to expand internationally, it bought out two reputed brands, Germany's "Schneider" in 2002 and GO-Video in 2003, followed by yet another breakthrough, its joint venture with Thomson Electronics in France.

The company is, indeed, a major international competitive player with Thomson in Europe, RCA in U.S.A. and TCL in Asia in its field.

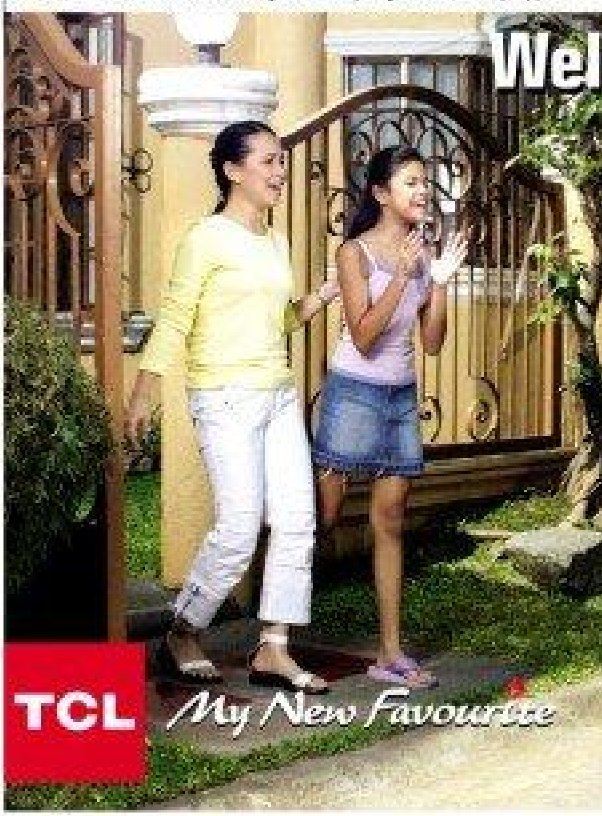
The Philippines is regarded as a key leadership market for TCL. Six years of phenomenal growth has brought it inside the elite circle of the country's top performers in the TV market, climbing a record of strong dealers' support and gaining Filipino consumers' acceptance.

TCL's entry into the top 5 local TV market is indeed remarkable considering that this was achieved in a short period of 5 years. Last year alone, it achieved 90% attainment of its own target and close to 48% growth over its previous year's performance. That it survived the recent economic and political uncertainties, speaks a lot of its tenacity, indicating that indeed, TCL in the Philippines is on its way up the leadership ladder.

Spirit of Innovations in Emerging Markets

TCL recognizes the ability to create innovations via high technology. It is committed to provide customers with diversified products internationally, putting hundreds of new models every year in many parts of the globe. In recent years, TCL has produced Plasma TVs, LCD-DVD TVs, Satellite TV sets, Slim Flat TVs, digital video and digital camera, many of which are ahead of similar products that are out in the market. In 2004, TCL launched the world's lightest, slimmest and biggest DLP TV.

Taking pride in its hard-earned stature as a top television brand in the country, TCL is determined to bring its diversity right here in the Philippines. The Slim/Flat TV with its outstanding features are ideal for Filipino households who want more from their home entertainment sets. One can't go wrong with the brand's LCD, Plasma and Satellite TVs and digital camera with prices that are music to the ears. TCL offers the advantage of affordability and good service for their quality products.



N, INC.
ue Technology

6 Years of Value Technology

"2005 Best Operations"

Company president Alex M. Espiritu, himself an awardee as excellent overseas manager for two (2) consecutive years, takes charge of country operations together with executive vice president Xiaodong Wu, to guide and ensure efficient company management. Both executives are elated over the many recognitions that have been bestowed upon TCL Sun Inc.

The "2005 Best Operations" Award is a solid testimony to the distinguished performance of the brand in the Philippines, besting 16 other countries overseas. It shows how its mother company appreciates the significant contribution that TCL in this part of Asia makes to achieve its overall global performance by generating commendable sales, adhering to company policies and living up to its ideals, visions and corporate commitments.

Individual sales and marketing executives have likewise been receiving awards and commendations from TCL's headquarters, boosting their drive to excel and work together as a dynamic team.

After all, creating a world class corporation is not just about high technology and excellent products. It is also about good people within the organization, harnessing their capabilities, encouraging their own dreams and more importantly, recognizing their potentials to grow and become excellent leaders in their own right.



TCL Sun Management Team
Left to right: Alex M. Espiritu, President; Xiaodong Wu, Executive Vice-President; Sunny Xiang, Chief Finance Officer



TCL Sales Managers Left to right: [illegible]

TCL-Thomson Electronics Market Business Center (TTE EMBC) Support Inspires

TTE EMBC is the main force for exploring overseas markets. It is constantly working on the process of making dreams turn into innovations and reality to build up TCL's international image. By improving integrated management skills and resources, TTE EMBC has constructed a global and highly efficient supply chain system and marketing service net.

TTE EMBC's support for local bases is integral to the worldwide success of TCL. It works hand in hand with local operations in exploring possibilities and catching opportunities that will inspire the entire corporate team to greater heights.

Former president Emmanuel T. Valencia, now business development director for TCL Corporation Overseas SBU, reiterates the strong emphasis of facilitating R&D, manufacturing, sales and service globalization, as the right way for TCL products to achieve a world standard, and deliver the TCL brand values and benefits to consumers successfully.





TCL TV: "My New Favourite"

Being an emerging leader brings TCL closer to the consciousness of an enlightened Filipino customer. At the rate the brand is gaining wider acceptance and getting increasing support from existing and new dealers, TCL is fast becoming known as "My New Favourite". Interesting features come with every product for an equally interesting, real-life entertainment experience. It is reflective of the value technology that has been brought in locally for six solid years.

A Bright Look Into the Future

In so short a time, it can be said that TCL has made the right moves and taken positive strides to find its place in the sun.

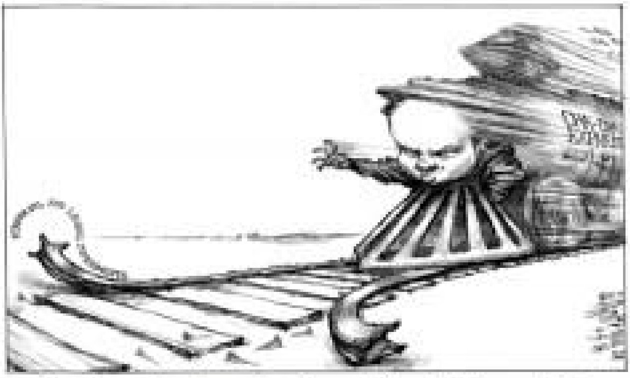
TCL has many stories to tell in all the many countries where it operates. But perhaps, the Philippine success story of diligent work, management teamwork and strong adherence to value technology is a more endearing story because it is closer to home.

On its 6th anniversary, expect more innovations, more value benefits and more exciting developments as TCL welcomes everybody to experience a new life!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

[illegible editorial staff roster]



Lost referendum

EDITORIAL

THAILAND IS IN SHOCK. AS THE RESULTS OF THE parliamentary elections called by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to renew his mandate came in, it became clear that the boycott and abstention movement had succeeded. The results exceeded even the wildest expectations of oppositionists, according to the Thai newspaper The Nation. Thai election rules require candidates in uncontested districts to achieve at least 20 percent of the vote to enter parliament. The boycott resulted in many seats remaining unfilled and so the new parliament cannot convene. Thaksin has neither a mandate nor a parliament to re-elect him prime minister. Follow-up elections now have to take place to fill those empty seats.

Analysts say several factors contributed to the success of the boycott campaign and the failure of Thaksin's confidence in both the machinery of his party and his support in the countryside. The first was the relentless expressions of people power in Bangkok which remained peaceful to the end. The second was that a well-organized publicity stunt, like Thaksin going to an open market to mingle with the electorate, got derailed by indignant citizens shouting "Thaksin, get out!" The third was a relatively small (by opposition standards) administration-organized rally to besiege the offices of The Nation, which galvanized the Thai media and the public. The fourth was another rally that coming in which Thaksin's supporters pelted oppositionists with rotten eggs and stones, in marked contrast to the peaceful and organized protests of the opposition. Finally, last Sunday, election day, a noted academic defiantly tore up his ballot in full view of the cameras, emboldening other Thais to do the same. The professor was arrested and put in jail.

Still, Thaksin remains defiant, claiming 16 million votes for his party (3 million less than what the party got in the previous election) versus the 10 million who abstained. He had earlier vowed to step down if his party failed to obtain 50 percent of the vote. On Monday night, he declared that he had achieved that percentage. And though his parliamentary majority was down to 349 seats from 377 seats last year, he defiantly pointed out that he retains a healthy majority. The problem is that Thailand's Constitution requires all the seats in the House of Representatives (the lower house of Thailand's bicameral parliament) to be filled before parliament can meet.

But Thaksin's bravura can't overshadow what has put Thailand in shock: not only have so many voted essentially for "none of the above" but no less of Thaksin's candidates got more votes than the negative votes (Thais have an option to check "no vote" on their ballots, which is tantamount to "none of the above" as abstention or boycott since not voting is a crime). In Bangkok, for example, only nine of Thaksin's candidates got more votes than the negative votes: 53 percent of Bangkok voters checked the "no vote" box on their ballots.

Thaksin has proposed the creation of a "reconciliation commission" to help find a solution to the parliamentary impasse. The panel would be composed of three former presidents of parliament, three former Supreme Court presidents, three former prime ministers and rectors of state universities. Thaksin says he will resign if the commission recommends that he do so to restore national unity. He has even proposed four potential successors.

At the same time, Thaksin continues to make defiant statements, referring to the Bush-Gore fight in the United States, and asking, "Tell me how the country would be better off without me. There must be good reasons for me to stay or quit. The 16 million should be told how the country will be reconciled if I step down."

Still, Thaksin might step down since he has lost what was billed as a referendum on his government and failed to get the new mandate he wanted. If, for example, in the contested parliamentary seats, oppositionists prevent any candidate from achieving 20 percent, he would be hard put to justify the formation of a government. Then the crisis will continue, and deepen. Which leads to the question: Will he go peacefully, or not?

Back to the drawing board for PCSO on STL

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE'S BAD NEWS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT officials and employees, policemen and soldiers: Contrary to what has been implied in statements of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), they won't get a single centavo, personally, from the share of local government units (LGUs) from the income of the small-town lottery (STL). The LGU shares, said lawyers Fed Lorenzo, PCSO spokesperson and legal consultant, and Lauro Patiag, manager of the legal department, are supposed to be spent for their charity projects. It would be illegal to use them to give higher salaries or allowances, they said at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday.

What this means is that they would not benefit directly from STL and would still be susceptible to bribes from jueteng lords to look the other way or even work for them when they resume parallel jueteng operations. Those who would benefit are the jueteng lords, their cobradores and cabos who would be employed but still be under the influence of their old bosses, the gambling operators, and those who would accept the bribes.

In other words, we would be back where we started: illegal jueteng would continue to corrupt government personnel, now including officials of the PCSO who would decide whom to bless with STL franchises. And in most cases, they would be run by the same jueteng lords using dummies. In fact, dummies may not even be necessary because under the PCSO rules, jueteng lords are not forbidden from applying for franchises. They have the advantage over others, too, because they have the experience and the capital (at least P15 million) to operate in a city or municipality. The only difference is that jueteng has been legalized and the gambling lords have been given a cover for their old jueteng operations.

A cobrador can be collecting bets for STL and at the same time collecting for jueteng. If caught, he can claim he is working for STL and has the identification card to support it. In other words, the PCSO has just rewarded the jueteng lords, with legitimacy.

Not only that, jueteng can easily eat into the earnings of STL or even kill it. In the first place, jueteng has only 37 numbers to choose from while STL has 40, and so the chances of winning is bigger in jueteng. The minimum bet for STL is 50 centavos, but for jueteng it is only 25 centavos. And instead of having only three STL draws a day, jueteng can have four or more.

Also, jueteng can offer bigger prizes. Its draws are made in secret or not at all, and the operator just chooses the combination with the smallest bet, so he can afford to give bigger prizes. So the cobradores can grab bettors for jueteng instead of STL.

What I am saying is that STL, as formulated by the PCSO, won't kill jueteng which is the justification for STL. The latter was proposed by anti-jueteng czar Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn to provide employment to the thousands of people who would be made jobless by the eradication of jueteng. His proposal was endorsed by the mayors and governors who were under the impression that the policemen and LGU personnel who were being bribed by jueteng lords would be legally given commissions by STL.

That is not correct, according to Lorenzo and Patiag. The PCSO management shot down Hagedorn's original proposal, for reasons people with dirty minds have already guessed. Making the funds of the STL franchises, Hagedorn went home disappointed because he would lose face with his fellow mayors who thought they would be the ones operating STL. President Macapagal-Arroyo followed him to Puerto Princesa and asked him to serve as anti-jueteng czar again, but Hagedorn was still licking his wounds and staying away as of Monday.

I had lunch with Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno last Saturday and I told him about Hagedorn's original proposal. He said it was a good idea but it was the first time he heard of it. I said it had been shot down by the PCSO. He said he would talk to Hagedorn and endorse it.

Can the PCSO still change its rules? Lorenzo and Patiag said, "Of course. After all, STL is still experimental and will be adjusted as needed."

There is another good reason why STL should be run by the LGUs and not by private franchise holders, a.k.a. the old jueteng lords. Only a portion of the collections from the numbers game go back to the economy of the city or municipality, in the form of commissions to the cobradores and cabos, the shares of the LGU and the police, etc. But at least a third goes to the operator who takes it out of the municipality's economy and deposits it in the bank or spends it elsewhere. In the case of franchise holders who are big players, like the ones in Quezon City, they would even take their profits out of the Philippines.

Remember that there are at least three draws daily. So almost one whole day's income from STL would be taken out of the local economy daily. Multiply that by 7 days a week, 30 days a month, 365 days a year, times the number of cities and municipalities with STL, and that would add up to hundreds of billions of pesos siphoned out of the economy. In no time at all, the economy would be depleted of capital.

On the other hand, if LGUs operate STL, all the collections would go back to the people in the form of social services, wages, commissions, etc., and hence back to the economy.

I think the PCSO should go back to the drawing board.

Choices

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW A COUPLE OF TV PROGRAMS WHERE the panel representing the camp opposing Charter change exhorted the voters to defend their right to choose their leader. In a parliamentary system, they said, the voters will no longer directly choose their prime minister, only the members of Parliament will. Only in a presidential system do the voters directly vote for their president.

That is silly, and shows only what's wrong with Cha-cha in the first place. The real choice is not between a parliamentary system and a presidential system, it is between dictatorship and democracy. The real choice is not between directly voting for a president or voting indirectly for a prime minister, the real choice is between being able to vote or not being able to vote at all—or what is less the same thing, between having one's vote counted and not having one's vote counted at all. The real choice is not which type of system responds more to the citizens' needs, it is which leader the citizens want, those they voted for or those who are merely imposing themselves on them.

If you do not have elections where your votes are counted, it doesn't matter a hoot whether you have a presidential system or a parliamentary one. Neither is a democracy, both are a tyranny. Your voice will not be heard, your said will not be seen. Ferdinand Marcos had a presidential and parliamentary system at the same time during martial law (he was both president and prime minister), which is what Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo also wants, and no one seriously asked then whether we were under a presidential or parliamentary system. Everyone knew we were under a dictatorship. Sure elections are no cure for a fraudulent keeping of power, or an outright coup as martial law. The long fake elections, the only choice that presents itself to you is whether you are going to assert yourself to save the country or be a dupe, fool and roll over for it.

Lest we forget, that is the root of the problem, the which Cha-cha is being touted as the answer. We have a case of government because, as the Marines and Gloria have been saying for some time now (and they ought to know because they were ordered to do it), the current occupant of Malacañang rigged the elections in Muslim Mindanao. For saying which, they have been gagged generally and several of them have been court-martialed. We have a case of government because, as every Filipino knows, Gloria called up Virgilio Garcillano in the middle of the counting of ballots to demand that she win by a margin of at least one million votes. Which has since become the National Ringtone, "Hello Garci."

You have no election for prime minister and the members of parliament where the Comelec counts only the votes produced by one person or group of persons (look at the electoral results from as far apart as Pampanga and Tawi-Tawi and see if they were not manufactured) on one hand, or group of hands, you do not have a parliamentary system, you have a dictatorship. You have an election for president and the members of the Senate and House of Representatives where the Comelec counts only the votes produced by one dog or group of dogs (look at the Basilan/Sulu in terms of those same electoral forms, and see if they were made by human fingers), you do not have a presidential system, you have a joke.

The reference to Marcos and martial law is not accidental, it is deliberate. The current move to change the Constitution is a throwback to Marcos and martial law. I recall that Marcos held several plebiscites then, a couple of them having to do with Charter change and the National Assembly, though now only vaguely the way they formulated the questions. What I recall more clearly is that [illegible] the acronym for Interim Batasang Pambansa, which was the legislative body the public was being asked to relate seriously because some sentence in reference to [illegible] Plaza, which was the place [illegible] in Tagalog seem to be serious thinking.

As far as I can recall, the questions the martial law plebiscites asked were: "Do you approve of the shift from a presidential to a parliamentary system? Do you want Marcos to exercise the powers of both president and prime minister? Do you want Marcos to be assisted in making laws by a 'National Assembly?'" Or words to that effect.

None of them asked, "Do you approve of martial law? Do you want Marcos to lift martial law and bring back genuine elections? Do you want Marcos to end have any powers but just go away and leave us well enough alone? Do you want the citizens to simply be able to vote, never mind if they are senators and congressmen or MPs?"

The latter set was clearly the real choices, and the first completely fake ones. But just to be sure, even within the narrow parameters of the questions, Marcos had the counting done by his minister, Leonardo Perez. The result was the statistical improbability of the citizens saying "yes" by as much as 99 percent. The Philippine Daily Express promptly called it "unprecedented," and it was not entirely wrong. It had no precedent and would have no antecedent—until now.

The only questions that need to be asked in a plebiscite today are: "Do you believe GMA won the elections? Do you believe she should disappear and leave us well enough alone? Do you believe we should have elections to determine a genuine president or prime minister?"

No one ever took the martial law plebiscites seriously. Everyone knew the choice was not between presidential or parliamentary, it was between dictatorship and democracy. It was not between one National Assembly or one legislative forum, it was between a legitimate ruler and an illegitimate one. It was not between local autonomy or no local autonomy, it was between Marcos or no Marcos.

Substitute "GMA" for "Marcos," and you have exactly the same thing today.

Power vacuum after Thai polls

Analysis



Amando Doronila

The last gasp

Pinoy Kasi



Michael L. Tan

A waste of money

At Large



Rina Jimenez-David

Eaten alive

Looking Back



Ambeth R. Ocampo





Tale of two Asean leaders

Who wants GMA out?

The real Monkees

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin quits



Now, Abalos does talking for Borra

Senate media report tells GMA, you're not the State

Nature's 1st art gallery is God's own greenery



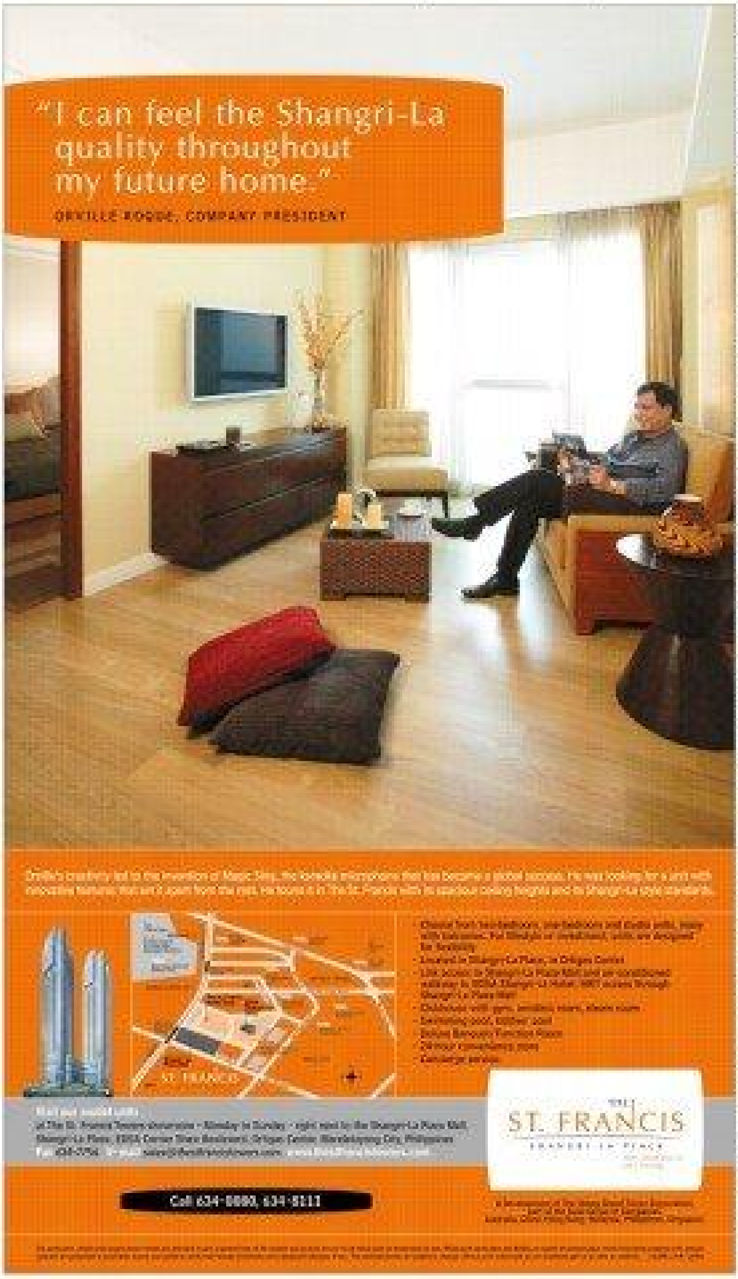
Cruz proposes to extend generals' tour of duty

Retirement at 60

Senate OKs 3-year term for AFP chief

Revolving door policy

Deferred retirement



Across the NATION

6/42 Lotto

7 11 23 25 28 40

P9,802,774.80

Solon sued for murder of poll exec

Legislator's son, vice mayor also face charges

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE YESTERDAY FILED MURDER CHARGES against members of a powerful political clan in Northern Luzon that was linked to the killing of an election officer in La Union in January.

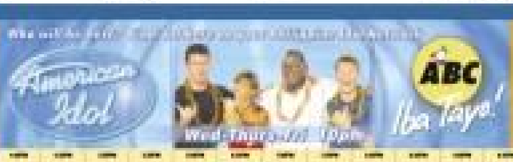


A boat carries pieces of furniture and other belongings across the Davao Gulf from Davao City to the Island Garden City of Samal.

Soldiers find NPA training camp in Sierra Madre

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Wednesday, April 5, 2006



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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Changing Kalinga's 'warrior culture'



Lubuagan residents hold peace festival to end tribal violence

THE CORDILLERA PROVINCE of Kalinga has been known for head-hunting expeditions and fierce wars among different tribes since its early history. Officials and elders want to erase that perception of violence through activities that can foster peace and cooperation among the indigenous communities.

[illegible]

Peace pact ritual

[illegible]

Symbols

[illegible]

Traditional justice

[illegible]

Spirit of adventure

[illegible]

Changing picture

[illegible]

In this town, lawyers barred from settling tribal disputes

MEMBERS OF THE KALANGUYA tribe, who comprise the majority of the population of Santa Fe town in Nueva Vizcaya, have rejected the interference of lawyers in the settlement of disputes and cases committed within their community.

[illegible]

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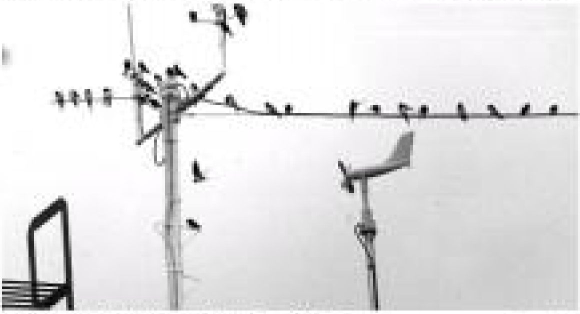


SIDEWALK BED

Mayors assail loss of control of water in bill

Gov't to allot ₱1B as seed fund for OFW bank

Fund lack prompts town to mount own bird flu campaign








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Editor: Ever G. Dipasupil

What's Inside



Cell phone rob-slay suspect arrested

[illegible]

Second suspect

[illegible]

Denial

[illegible]

Bring back cops — Eusebio

[illegible]





Unpaid bills end in water crisis in Tondo

By Margaux C. Ortiz

No payments

Solution

Manila beats rest, lifts number coding

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Tarra V. Quismundo

Makati biz area gets ready for disaster scenario

By Tarra V. Quismundo



PARAMEDICS give first aid to a "victim" during an earthquake drill in Makati City.



POLICE look on as crime lab dig up a swamp at Barangay Sto. Tomas, Pasig to look for the body of an alleged drug peddler.

Swamp search continues

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Forest park in time for Earth Day

By Jocelyn R. Uy



DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Thaksin claims victory; political crisis worsens

WorldBriefs

Memorial Mass for John Paul II

Sharon to undergo skull operation

Moussaoui eligible for execution

34th bird flu death in Indonesia



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The WORLD

World's first reengineered bladders

BOSTON—AT AGE 16, KAITLYNE MCNAMARA is different beyond her defective spine, crutch, leg braces and 54 surgeries. She has one of the world's first reengineered bladders.



Defiant Taylor pleads not guilty to war crimes

Astronomers spot alcohol cloud 463-B km long



DR. DANIEL Eberli of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine seeds a specially constructed biodegradable mold, shaped like a bladder, with human bladder cells during a procedure resembling [illegible] a cake. AP

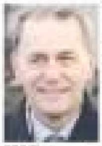
New documents show Mozart wasn't as poor as many believed



SPORTS
Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres

Olympic chief backs POC stand

Assures Cojuangco of IOC support in his row with BAP; vital Fiba meeting up



ROGGE

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

SEOUL—THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNAtional Olympic Committee yesterday assured the Philippine Olympic Committee of his support in its protracted dispute with the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

HOPEFUL IN SEOUL

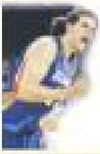
We are getting there, says grateful Peping

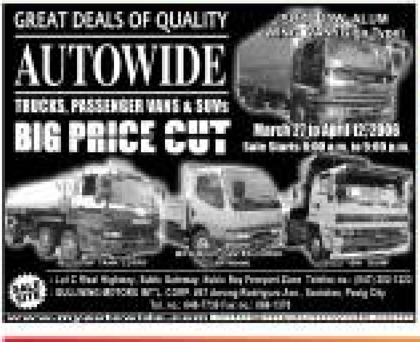
By Al S. Mendoza



COJUANGCO

"No, it's not yet a done deal," said Cojuangco. "But the signs are positive. We are on the right track. We are getting there."









Giants, Tigers gun for share of PBA lead

Sports official talks too much

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

Hurting Baguion boosts Jewels to 4th straight win



Padyak Pinoy Tour dangles bigger prizes



Stick-up: Old Mexican steak priced like gold

BARE EYE



Filipino booters stall tough Indians in AFC tilt

'Bakbakan sa Silang' tonight

Gators snap up US NCAA title

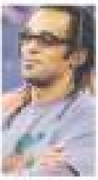
UCLA Bruins find no answer to Florida defense, bench



INDIANAPOLIS—SWARMING GATORS DEFENSE AND SUperior bench play delivered Florida's first national basketball title on Monday with a 73-57 win over UCLA.



A legend's son also rises



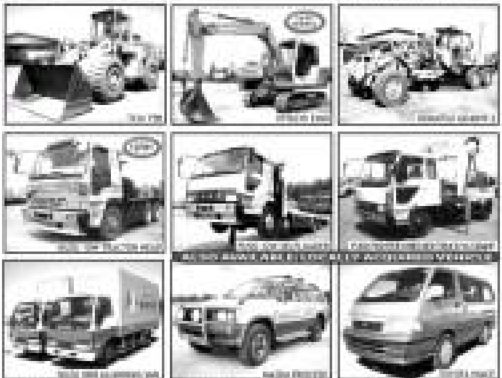
Sir Charles, Wilkins lead '06 Hall of Fame class

Phil's ready for Masters

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SPORTS

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Binondo big in gymnastics

Barte too tough for Gumana

Jungolfers seek DHL finals slots in Baguio today

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE



ENTERTAINMENT



SOLIMAN Cruz teaches Nathan with a compact mirror on the set of their award-winning movie.

'Maxi' grateful to acting coach

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE ACTOR Nathan Lopez is brimming with gratitude for his acting coach and screen father Soliman Cruz.

The high school sophomore has just won his first international award—best actor in the 7th Las Palmas de la Gran Canaria Film Festival, held in the Canary Islands from March 24 to April 1—for his performance in the film "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros."

Prior to this, Lopez and the movie had been swamped with accolades here and abroad.

Focus

"He took good care of me," he said of Cruz in a phone interview with Inquirer Entertainment on Monday. "He didn't leave me on my own. He focused on me until I could act convincingly like a gay boy."

The 14-year-old Pinoy tied with Spain's Israel Gomez [illegible], teenage star of "La Leyenda del Tiempo (The Legend of Time)."

"Maximo," the movie, also won the Grand Prize and Audience Award in the Las Palmas fest.

"It's the first time in that film fest's history that one movie won the top three awards," director Auraeus Solito told Inquirer via a text message from Madrid.

"Maximo" scriptwriter Michiko Yamamoto sounded thrilled when she said, "I am proud of Nathan."

Unexpected

Last July, Lopez was awarded a Special Citation for Best Performance at the Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival.

Of the Las Palmas award, he said he was "very happy because it is my first international award... and the Maximo goes so far."

Lopez was on a family outing in Batangas when Inquirer caught up with him, a day after the Canary Islands victory.

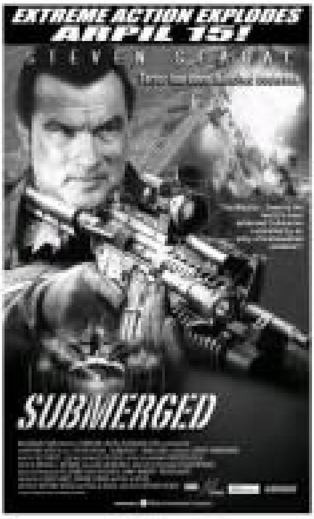
"It was unexpected," Lopez said.

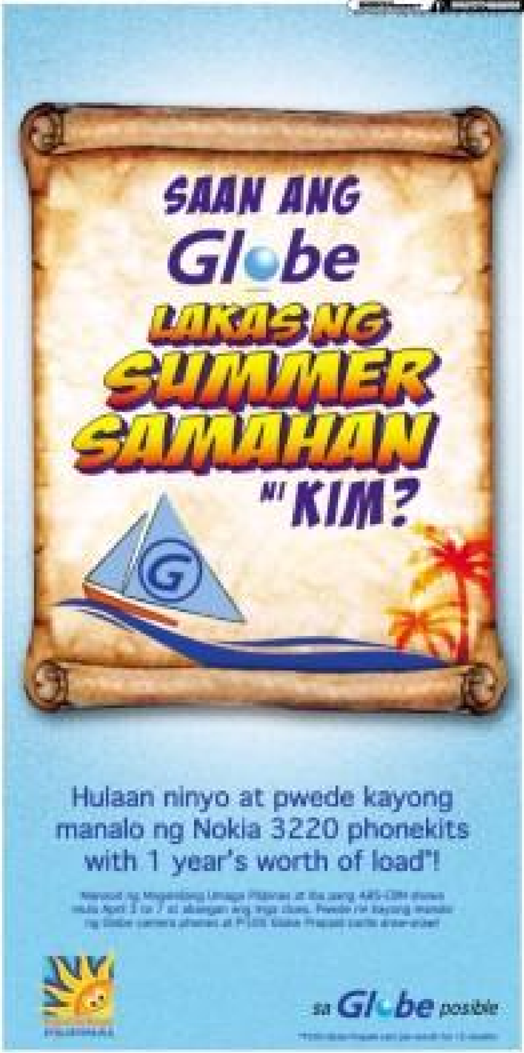
He recalled that

PAGE A2-4











OPENING

The Hills Have Eyes

Stars Aaron Stanford, Ted Levine, Kathleen Quinlan

Directed by Alexandre Aja



Bandidas

Stars Penelope Cruz, Salma Hayek, Steve Zahn, Sam Shepard

Directed by Joachim Roenning and Espen Sandberg

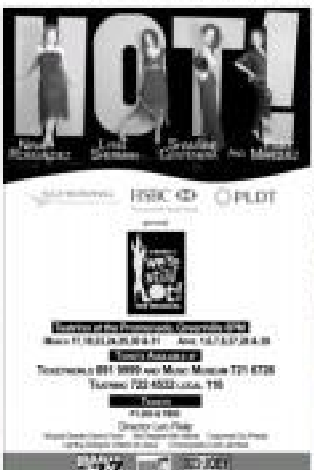












TODAY



's Boy

Chinese Tall Story



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2	ICE AGE 2
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JUST FRIENDS	BANDIDAS	ICE AGE 2	ICE AGE 2 / THE HILLS HAVE EYES
MOMENTS OF LOVE	SHE'S THE MAN / LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN	BASIC INSTINCT 2	

ALIMALL CINEMAS

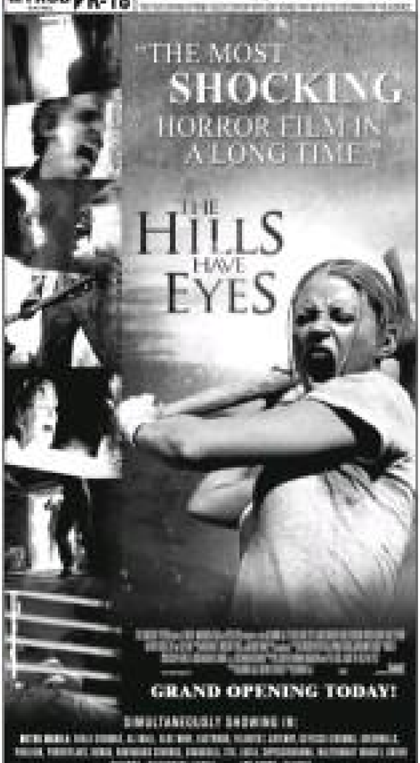
1	MOMENTS OF LOVE	2	ICE AGE 2
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4 GRANDMA'S BOY
5 ICE AGE 2
6 BASIC INSTINCT 2
7 JUST FRIENDS
8 MOMENTS OF LOVE
9 CHINESE TALL STORY
10 SHE'S THE MAN

ERMITA

1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 JUST FRIENDS / ICE AGE 2
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
5 GRANDMA'S BOY
6 BANDIDAS
7 CHINESE TALL STORY

METRO EAST

1 BASIC INSTINCT 2
2 CHINESE TALL STORY
3 GRANDMA'S BOY
4 ICE AGE 2
5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
6 BANDIDAS
7 JUST FRIENDS
8 MOMENTS OF LOVE

NOVALICHES

1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 BASIC INSTINCT 2
5 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

CITISQUARE MALABON

1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 ICE AGE 2
3 GRANDMA'S BOY
4 BANDIDAS

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1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 NORTH COUNTRY
3 ICE AGE 2
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 ULTRAVIOLET

LIPA

1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 VENOM
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
5 HOUSE OF FURY

DASMARIÑAS

1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 ICE AGE 2
3 NORTH COUNTRY
4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
5 SHE'S THE MAN

ANGELES

1 ICE AGE 2
2 MOMENTS OF LOVE
3 ULTRAVIOLET
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2

IMUS

1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN

STARMILLS

1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
2 ICE AGE 2
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 ULTRAVIOLET
5 GLORY ROAD
6 NANNY MCPHEE

BACOLOD

1 ICE AGE 2
2 SHE'S THE MAN
3 VENOM
4 NORTH COUNTRY
5 SHAGGY DOG

ILOILO

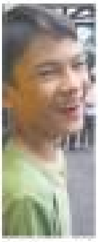
1 ICE AGE 2
2 VENOM
3 MOMENTS OF LOVE
4 NORTH COUNTRY
5 HOUSE OF FURY
6 THE DARK

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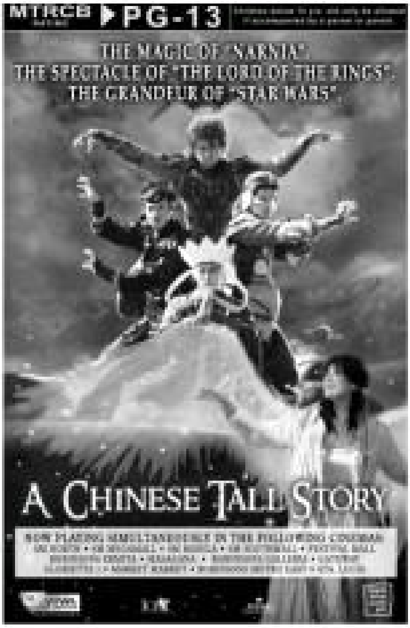




'Maxi' grateful to...

> Nathan was a good student and 'very open' to directions, Soliman recalls







ENTERTAINMENT



BILLIE Joe Armstrong of Green Day arrives with his family for the Nickelodeon Awards.

Kids choose
Chris Rock & Green Day



ROBIN Williams is slimed up.

H'wood hunting for films

(This is a condensed version of a story that will appear in today's New York Times.)

Decrease

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper: INQUIRER

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB Market

SHANG CINEPLEX

ICE AGE 2

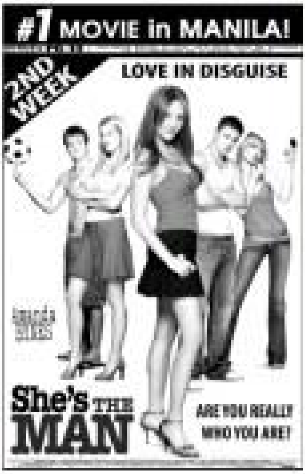
JUST FRIENDS

BANDIDAS

THE HILLS HAVE EYES

PREMIERE THEATRE · BASIC INSTINCT 2

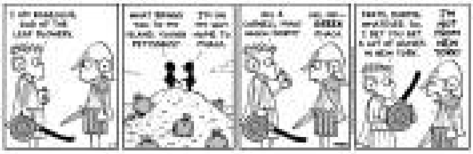
Catch the Cineplex Special





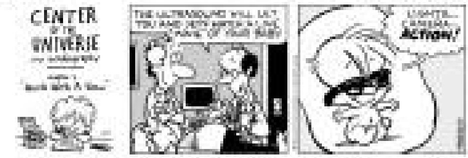
ComicRelief

FOXTROT

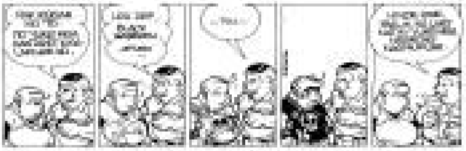




MARVIN



PUGAD BABOY

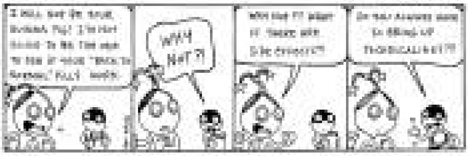


BABY BLUES



MUTTS

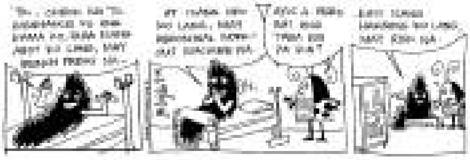




DIVINE COMEDY

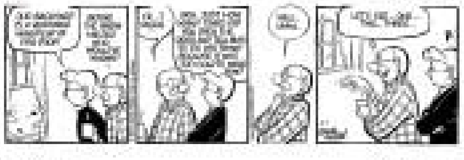


Horoscope

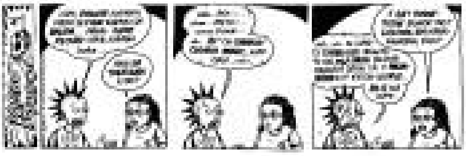


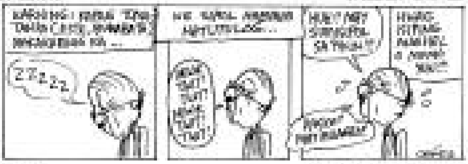
Daily Crossword

BEN



KIKO MACHINE







ROUNDUP

$70.5-M snowball



[illegible]

Smokin' Crowe

[illegible]

Pitt stop

[illegible]

'Genius' crimes and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

[illegible]

Feedback

(To be concluded)



glorietta GREENBELT TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

Cinema	Titles
G1	1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES; 2 GRANDMA'S BOY; 3 CHINESE TALL STORY; 4 MOMENTS OF LOVE
G4	1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES; 2 GRANDMA'S BOY; 3 BANDIDAS; 4 BASIC INSTINCT 2; 5 MOMENTS OF LOVE; 6 ICE AGE 2 THE MELTDOWN; 7 JUST FRIENDS
GB1	1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES; 2 BASIC INSTINCT 2
GB3	1 BANDIDAS; 2 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN; 3 RENT; 4 JUST FRIENDS; 5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
ATC	1 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN; 2 BANDIDAS; 3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES; 4 GRANDMA'S BOY; 5 JUST FRIENDS
ACC	1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2; 2 NANNY MCPHEE; 3 ICE AGE 2 THE MELTDOWN; 4 ULTRAVIOLET
M2	1 ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN; 2 MOMENTS OF LOVE; 3 CHINESE TALL STORY; 4 BANDIDAS; 5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	TOWN
Philippine Fashion Week 06 April 3 to 9, 2006	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
	Championships April 1, 2006

GREENBELT — Pandiapot Festival at Greenbelt April 5, 2006

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents TWO USABA

Ayala Museum — Registration is now ongoing for Ayala Museum's Summer Art Festival Workshop 2006







RUSHES

Happy for Heart



CINDY Kurleto

I'M HAPPY FOR THEM," sexy Cindy Kurleto said when asked about ex-boyfriend Jericho Rosales and his new squeeze, Heart Evangelista.

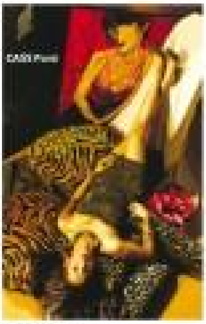
With a body like hers, Cindy can say "I'm happy" period, any old time.

Cindy is one of the event hosts for the MTV Summer Break with Coca-Cola—the local version of MTV Spring Break grind parties in Mexico—set in Boracay from April 20 to 22.

Cindy's co-hosts are fellow MTV VJs RC Marcero, Marc Abaya and Mariel Rodriguez. The events include relay races, bikini-wearing marathon, dance parties, yoga sessions, beach volleyball, bikini body contests and concerts featuring Any Cleveland, Itchyworms, Imago and Sugarfree.

Guilty pleasures

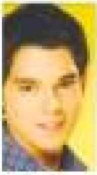
CASSANDRA "Cass" Ponti, from the first "Pinoy Big Brother," is on the cover of Maxim magazine with Ploning Mariano. "Guilty pleasures" is how Cass' photographs on the inside pages are described. This (right) is just one of them.



CASS Ponti

Twin treats

THE GUTIERREZ twins Richard and Raymond host Ruby Rodriguez's "Easy Bedlock" show tonight at 5 at the Glorietta Activity Center. Their mom, Annabelle, is not participating.



RICHARD



RAYMOND



KELLY Clarkson AFP

Kelly at MTV Awards

KELLY Clarkson and Chinese pop-hip-hop superstar Wang Leehom will host the fifth annual MTV Asia Awards in Bangkok on May 6. Among the most awaited performers is crooner Simon Webbe from the UK. Sandwich, Rivermaya, Orange & Lemons and Kitchie Nadal are vying for favorite Artist (Philippines).

Kids choose . . .

From page A3-1

by kids must move to be like. Past winners have included Will Smith and Queen Latifah. "They're working their way down," Rock said.

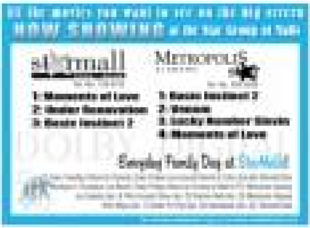
Winners were chosen by fans who voted online.

The complete list:

- Favorite Movie—"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."
- Favorite Animated Movie—"Madagascar."
- Favorite Movie Actor—Will Smith, "Hitch."
- Favorite Movie Actress—Lindsay Lohan, "Herbie: Fully Loaded."
- Favorite Voice From an Animated Movie—Chris Rock, "Madagascar."
- Favorite Song—"Wake Me Up When September Ends," Green Day.
- Favorite Music Group—Green Day.
- Favorite Male Singer—Jesse McCartney.
- Favorite Female Singer—Kelly Clarkson.
- Favorite Television Show—"Drake & Josh."
- Favorite Television Actor—Drake Bell, "Drake & Josh."
- Favorite Television Actress—Jamie Lynn Spears, "Zoey 101."
- Favorite Athlete—Lance Armstrong.
- Favorite Cartoon—"SpongeBob SquarePants."
- Favorite Video Game—"Madagascar Operation Penguin."
- Favorite Book—"Harry Potter" series.
- Wannabe Award—Chris Rock. AP



CHRIS Rock, here with daughter Lola Simone, accepts his award: "They're working their way down."





PC BUYER'S GUIDE
The No.1 Computer Magazine in the Philippines

BUSINESS

Canon
Your Financial Planner

Peso rallies on strong OFW remittances

Hits intra-day high of 50.95 to $1, closes at 51.45

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY RALlied back to the 50 level before closing at 51.45 against the dollar on strong overseas Filipino workers remittances ahead of the coming school year in June as well as rosier prospects about the government's fiscal position.

News about the Philippine government's plan to buy back the Brady bonds—similar to the strategy adopted by Latin American countries like Mexico, Brazil and Colombia—also boosted confidence in the government's fiscal position.

The local currency opened at 51.68 and breached the 51.50 barrier to hit an intra-day high of 50.95 before closing near the intra-day low of 51.45 against the greenback. Volume traded at the Philippine Dealing System amounted to [illegible] million.

"The offshore market is bullish on the Philippines. They're even more bullish

PESO B4

WHAT'S INSIDE

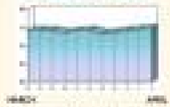
₱1.1T needed for infra projects

THE COUNTRY NEEDS P1.1 TRILLION ($21.25 billion) in fresh investments starting this year to 2010 to tackle infrastructure bottlenecks, the National Economic and Development Authority said.

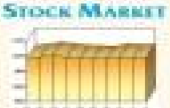
[illegible]

P1.1T NEEDED B4

CURRENCIES



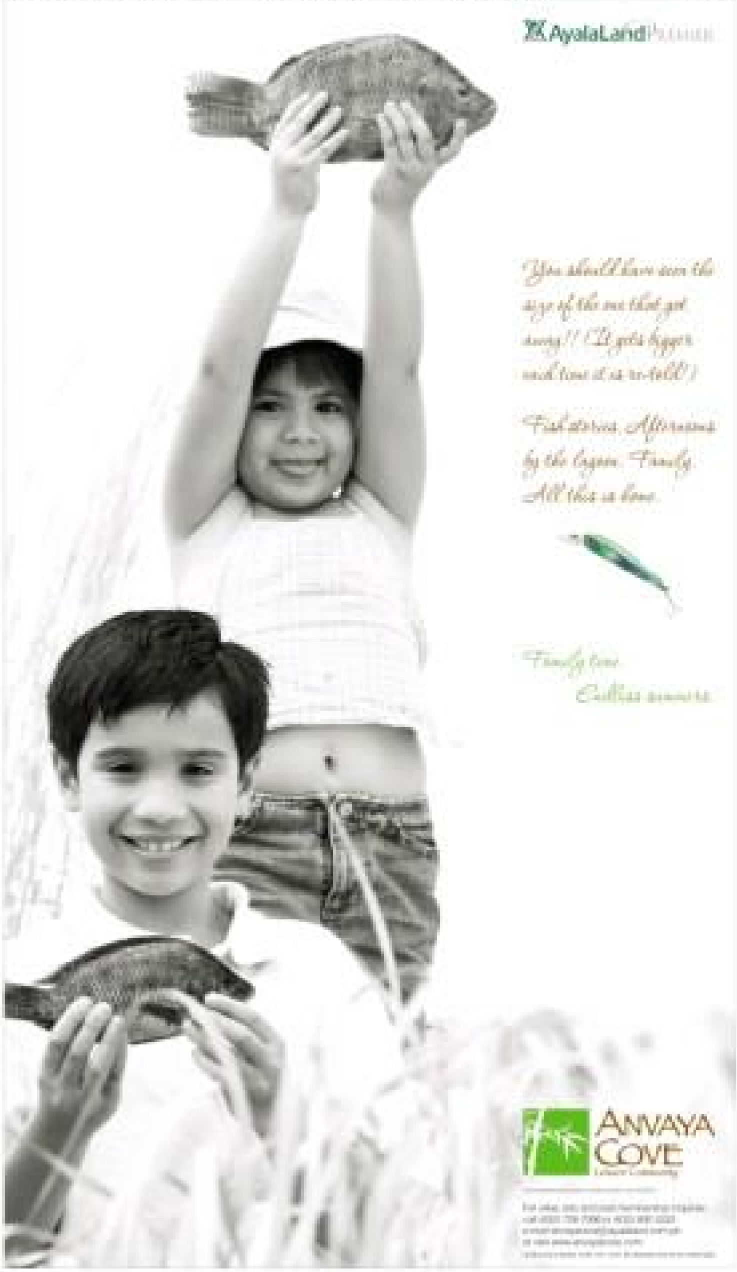
STOCK MARKET



Shares close slightly higher

[illegible]

SHARES B4



Subic port expanding cargo handling capacity

JBIC loan funds purchase of new equipment

PBP completes Szopad's 526 'Bridges of Hope'

Peso rallies ...

P1.1T needed ...

Panalo ka sa Kakaibang
STICKER MAKING
Roland
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SOFTWARE PIRACY CRACKDOWN INTENSIFIES

Since the launch of the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team, several companies have been raided for engaging in use and distribution of pirated software.

They ignored the warning. They continued to use unlicensed software and distribute copyrighted materials illegally. AND THEY WERE CAUGHT!

PILIPINAS ANTI-PIRACY TEAM

Aug. 16, 2005 : Architectural design company raided in Pasig City for use of unlicensed software
Sept. 17, 2005 : European car dealer raided in Mandaluyong City for use of unlicensed software
Sept. 22, 2005 : Stores inside malls in Pasig, Mandaluyong, Manila and Cubao raided for selling pirated software
Oct. 10, 2005 : 6 construction and engineering firms in Pasig and Makati City raided for use of unlicensed software
Oct. 15, 2005 : An American and his Filipino business partner arrested in Cebu City for selling pirated software
Nov. 23, 2005 : House in Cebu City raided for unauthorized duplication of optical discs
Nov. 24, 2005 : 4 branches of a large internet café chain in Metro Manila raided for use of unlicensed software
Dec. 02, 2005 : Internet cafés in San Fernando, Pampanga inspected for unlicensed software
Dec. 15, 2005 : Internet café and two computer shops in Quezon City raided for use of unlicensed software and hard disk loading
Dec. 30, 2005 : Printing press in Tondo, Manila raided for printing materials for pirated CDs
Jan. 17, 2006 : 2 branches of popular comics and magazine store in Makati City and two computer shops in Quezon City raided for selling pirated software
Feb. 23, 2006 : Real estate property developer in Pasig City raided for use of unlicensed software
March 03, 2006: Contractor firm in Pampanga raided for use of unlicensed software
March 17, 2006: 2 stores in a popular mall in Quezon City raided for installing computers with and selling pirated software

This year, the nationwide crackdown intensifies. More raids will take place as we remain committed to stopping the prevalence of software piracy among businesses. This is in line with the government's efforts to improve the protection of intellectual property rights for the development of the national economy.

Lawsuits, hefty fines, embarrassment and imprisonment are some of the damaging consequences of using and/or distributing pirated software.

Legalize your software now.

National Bureau of Investigation — Optical Media Board — Philippine National Police

Mystery buyer, Equitable terms

COCKTALES

Wellie C. Agustin

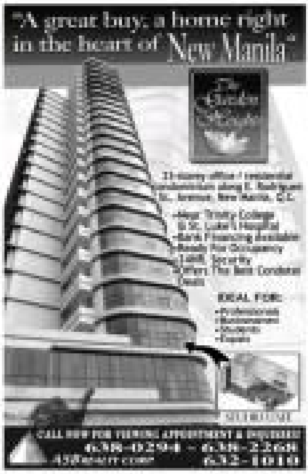
1.8-liter, 1.6-price

Economic amnesia

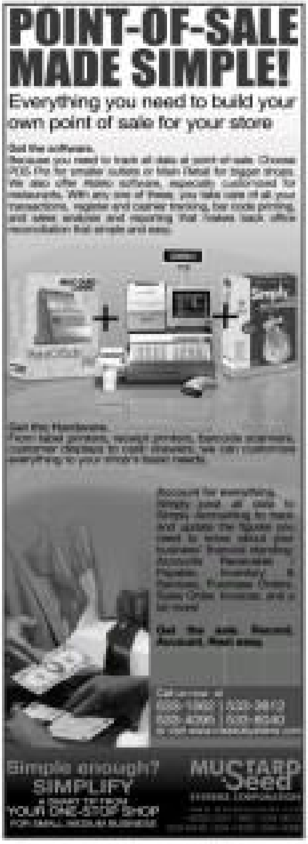
Heard through the grapevine













Globe cautious on '06 prospects

Ayala telco says industry faced with single-digit sales growth

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Pre-need firm buys back old plans

Shares . . .

From page B1

MAKE YOUR MONEY GROW!
As high as
12%
interest p.a.
TAX-FREE!
Open a 5-year AMA Bank Time Deposit Now!

Rate as high as 12% interest per year
With monthly payment of interest TAX FREE
Secure a loan with your deposit as collateral
For only Php 25,000 minimum deposit

AMA BANK

53 Years of Banking Service

AC invests $20M in US fund









Business

RP reduced public sector deficit to ₱106B in '05

Shell now looking at expansion, not relocation





RP's premier auto show kicks off tomorrow

THERE IS DEFINITELY something here for everyone! You want horsepower? Check out the 550-horsepower Ford GT. You want luxury? The all-new third generation Toyota Previa or the recently unveiled Nissan Murano is for you. Sporty? You have a choice between Mitsubishi's Lancer Evolution IX MR and the Eclipse 3.8 V6.

[illegible]

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CONVENTIONAL AND IRIDIUM SPARK PLUGS
WIPER BLADES
ENGINE ELECTRICAL PARTS

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(Parking Space Available at HK SUN PLAZA, Macapagal Boulevard)



Public Debuts of Production Models

Special Cars

Activities

Organized by: WORLDBEX SERVICES INTERNATIONAL

Entrance fee: Php. 50.00

BEFORE YOU TAKE THAT HOLY WEEK DRIVE...



KEEP YOUR CAR IN ITS BEST RUNNING CONDITION.
Rapidé

OPEN FOR FRANCHISING



Campi presents 2nd Manila auto show

On the Road



Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

Public debut

Car of the year



Sizzling Sakata success

Full Tank

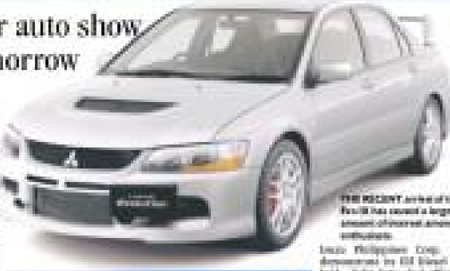


Al Mendoza

"There is no small job. If you do your best, every job becomes big"



RP's premier auto show kicks off tomorrow





Never-before-seen road cars

Trans Sport Show all set

Love affair with the auto

Oldest RP motor club holds auto show

Activities

Sponsors, exhibitors



Fernando Alonso grabs . . .

Dominant lead



Music and motors: a soundtrack to driving

MY DRIFT



First encounter

Controlled aggression





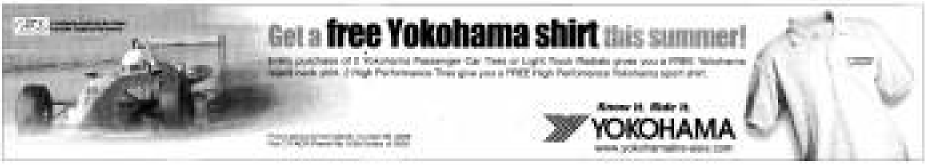
AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

Fernando Alonso grabs victory for Renault

One crazy race

Going for the goal



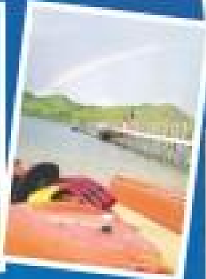


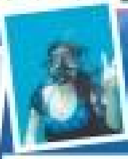
MAGBAYAD NG TAMANG BUWIS
bago ang April 17 deadline
12 DAYS TO GO

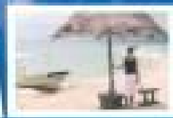
LIFESTYLE

KICK OUT GOUT !!!









Have a WOW summer

Part 1

We at 2bU! love playing tourists in the Philippines. Why not? There are so many places to discover and experience in our country. And we think you'll have a blast exploring our many islands, too. So when we go out-of-town on assignments—or even on vacation—we keep our eyes open for places and things we think you'd also love.

Do keep them in mind as you make your plans this summer vacation. Think of us as travel agents with one agenda: your enjoyment.

Here are some of our finds in Palawan and Bicol, for starters.

Get ready to pack, folks!

With our rock-bottom rates, your new home is closer than you think.

Fixing Period	Interest Rate*	Monthly Amortization**
1-year	10.25%	P 9,817
2-year	11.00%	P10,322
3-year	11.25%	P10,493
5-year	11.50%	P10,665

Apply at any PSBank branch nationwide.

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The promise of Bicol









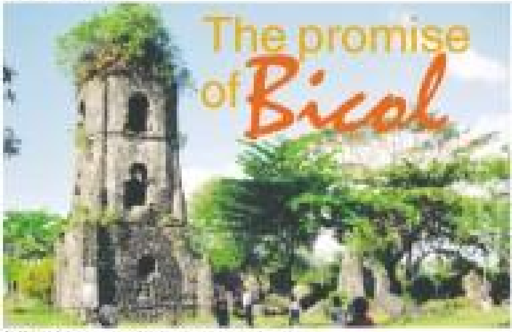

footwear
Robinsons
Department Store
sizzling
summer
finds
accessories
beachwear
bags
Get a FREE GIFT this summer for a
minimum single-receipt purchase worth P700!
sizzle this summer
Robinsons Galleria Flagship Store
Robinsons Malls
Waltermart Malls
Tutuban Center
Metropolis Star Alabang
Festival Mall Alabang
Nepo Mall Pampanga



The region is home to the world's most perfect volcano cone and the gentle whale shark



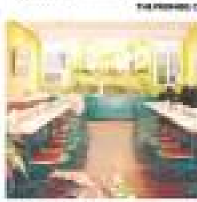
The promise of Bicol







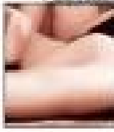
Gentle giant





LIFESTYLE





Paradise found

Dimakya island is a good place to start appreciating the thrill of Palawan

DIGITAL SUMMER SPLASH



Purchase a V530, V550, or a V570 Kodak EasyShare digital camera and get a FREE C310 Kodak digital camera instantly! So get your new camera today and splash on some color this summer with vivid and vibrant pictures!

FREE

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Kodak EasyShare

BPI Express Credit



The ride of your life begins with the win of a lifetime.

For a chance to win the Porsche Boxster, simply charge a minimum purchase of ₱1,000 to your BPI Edge or Mini-Edge Credit Card.

Make it Happen

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

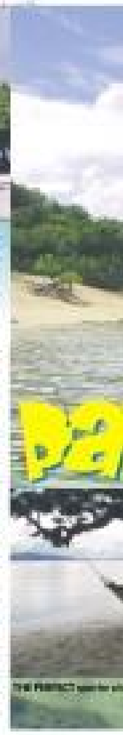
PGA Cars, Inc.



easter
CARNIVAL
Activity Highlights:
Lunch from 12:00NN – 2:30PM
Easter Carnival Activity
Lent Escape

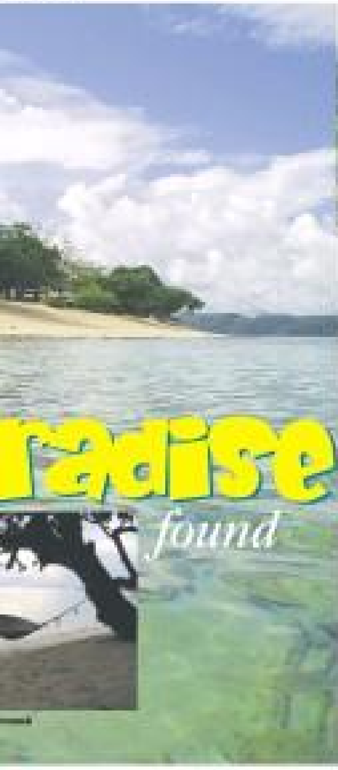


What to do:





OUT THIS FRIDAY, APRIL 7
IT'S FREE!
INQUIRER
JUST SHOP
Lauren Hudson
BEACH MUST-HAVES
BAGS
SHOES
LUGGAGE AND MORE!
170+
great summer buys
CHIC COVER UPS
Perfect for the beach and pool parties
Get a fabulous tan with bronzers that work
This April,
Just Shop,
your favorite shopalogue, invites you to take the plunge!
SUIT UP!
Show off fun, flirty cover-ups from sun-up to sundown.
Bask in summer's fiery colors with must-have accessories.
Beauty products that make the most of your golden glow.
With a complimentary hair treatment from Kerastase ritual
relax and chill out with JUST SHOP!



Paradise found



A QUAINT shed in the middle of town

PERFECT day for kayaking

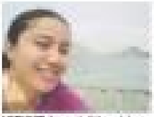
Palawan sojourn



DINE or get a massage at the cabana during sunset for the best view.



TONY, Cynthia, me and Vikkie on our way to the jetty



I FOUND the end of the rainbow in Palawan!

What to eat:

What to buy:

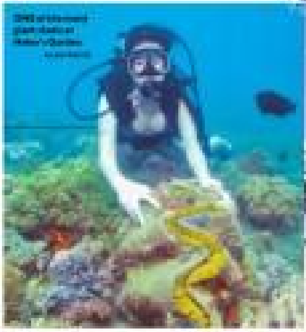
Other tips:

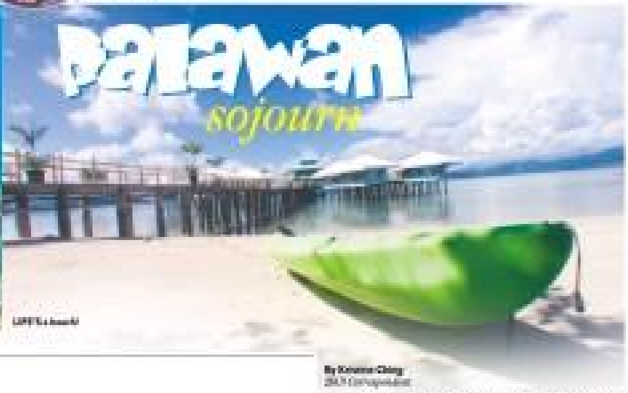
Up to * 50% OFF *ON ALL FABRICS
March 31 - April 30 2006



WEAVES OF ASIA







By Kristine Ching

I PROPOSE THAT BEACH LEAVES BE MADE COMPULSORY. No matter how convenient it is to live in the city, it becomes hell once the sweltering summer months set in. Cooling off appears to be the only alternative.



Away AHHCHOO!

Performer Ricci Chan prevents allergic rhinitis from stealing the show



Day 2









